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CONTACTS

Danny Kopelson  
Illinois Health Information Exchange  
(312) 814-1545  
danny.kopelson@illinois.gov

Angie Bass  
Missouri Health Connection  
(573)447-7722  
abass@MissouriHealthConnection.org

## **The Illinois Health Information Exchange and Missouri Health Connection Sign Data Sharing Agreement**

*Agreement provides physicians with better access to patient information to improve care quality.*

CHICAGO, IL, December 11, 2013 – The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) announced today that it has signed a data sharing agreement with Missouri Health Connection (MHC), providing physicians in both states with a greater depth of patient information at the time of treatment to improve care quality. This data sharing is particularly important for border states, such as Illinois and Missouri, since patients frequently cross state lines to receive care.

“Healthcare does not neatly follow state borders, so information about patients needs to follow them wherever they go,” said Raul Recarey, executive director of ILHIE. “Many Illinois patients from the southern portion of our state are referred to Missouri hospitals. The ILHIE/MHC agreement will allow providers from either state to have access to critically important patient data, regardless of whether that data resides in Missouri or Illinois.”

ILHIE’s network provides services to more than 2,000 providers at more than 450 healthcare organizations, including hospitals, physician practices, and community health centers. MHC’s network provides services to more than 45 percent of the inpatient care provided in Missouri, 62 hospitals and more than 350 clinics. The network enables more than 7,000 physicians to securely access the health information of their patients to improve care quality.

MHC and ILHIE are the state-designated entities for their respective states, tasked with creating and managing the infrastructure to connect healthcare providers with their patients via a secure health information network. As more healthcare providers move from paper-based medical records to electronic health record (EHR) systems, MHC and ILHIE are working to make sure they can exchange information with each other through one secure network – regardless of the technology platforms that they are using. The connectivity services provided by MHC and ILHIE are designed to support all healthcare provider organizations, from the largest multi-hospital health system, to a solo physician practice.

“MHC and ILHIE are leading the country in cooperative efforts to ensure that healthcare providers have all the information they need for the care of their patients,” said Marc Andiel, MHC’s President and CEO. “Our goal is to fulfill the vision of using technology to reduce the ‘silos’ that hold back health information from being available where it is needed most—in the hands of caregivers. Whether those silos are organizational or governmental boundaries or technological interoperability challenges, we exist to reduce those barriers, and working with Illinois on this common goal has demonstrated our shared missions of service to our communities.”

### **About the Illinois Health Information Exchange**

The Illinois Health Information Exchange is a statewide, secure electronic transport network for sharing clinical and administrative data among healthcare providers in Illinois. The ILHIE allows providers to exchange electronic health information in real time and in a secure environment to improve healthcare quality and patient care. The Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) is working with the ILHIE Authority to support its development.

### **About Missouri Health Connection**

MHC is Missouri’s state-designated entity implementing Missouri’s only secure, statewide health information network. Coordinating care, reducing preventable errors, and avoiding treatment duplication are among MHC’s primary goals. MHC’s network will improve patient care and help save lives in emergencies by securely delivering more complete and accurate information at the point of care, or wherever it is needed. MHC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is governed by a public-private board of directors. For information, visit [www.MissouriHealthConnection.org](http://www.MissouriHealthConnection.org).

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